

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 28th November, 2006/7 Agrahayana, 1928 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

असम में पर्यटन को बढ़ावा

*81. श्री द्विजेन्द्र नाथ शर्मा: क्या पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) असम में पर्यटन के विकास और इसे बढ़ावा देने के लिए सरकार द्वारा बनाई गई योजनाओं का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ख) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान राज्य में पर्यटन संबंधी प्रस्तावों को लागू करने के लिए केंद्र सरकार द्वारा परियोजना-वार आवंटित की गई, जारी की गई और खर्च की गई धनराशि का ब्यौरा क्या है?

पर्यटन मंत्री (श्रीमती अम्बिका सोनी): (क) और (ख) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है

विवरण

(क) पर्यटन मंत्रालय निम्नलिखित योजनाओं के अंतर्गत असम के लिए विशेष परियोजनाओं को स्वीकृति प्रदान करता है:—

1. गंतव्यों तथा परिपथों का उत्पाद/अवसंरचना विकास;
2. ग्रामीण पर्यटन अवसंरचना विकास;
3. मेले तथा उत्सव;
4. होटल प्रबंधन एवं कैंटीनिंग तकनालॉजी संस्थानों हेतु सहायता।

इन योजनाओं के समग्र पैरामीटरों के अंतर्गत असम में निम्नलिखित कार्यक्रमों पर जोर दिया गया है:—

1. चाय पर्यटन एवं वृक्षारोपण अवकाश;
2. वन्य जीव एवं साहसिक अवकाश;
3. प्रकृति एवं संस्कृति पर्यटन;
4. नदी एवं समुद्री पर्यटन;
5. तीर्थ पर्यटन।

इसका उद्देश्य सतत पर्यटन के एक अद्वितीय मॉडल के रूप में असम को विकसित करना रहा है
(ख) पिछले 3 वर्षों के दौरान स्वीकृत परियोजनाओं की एक सूची विवरण-1 में दी गई है

विवरण-1

पिछले 3 वर्षों के दौरान असम सरकार के लिए स्वीकृत परियोजनाओं की सूची

(लाख रुपयों में)

क्र.सं. परियोजनाओं का नाम	स्वीकृत राशि	अवमुक्त राशि
2003-04		
1. गुवाहाटी में कामख्या मन्दिर के आस-पास विकास	151.27	151.27
2. हाथी उत्सव 2004 असम	04.19	03.75
3. असम में अगरटेली रेंज काजीरंगा में एकीकृत पर्यटक परिसर	158.00	158.00
4. रंगोली उत्सव	4.60	3.68
5. सेवा प्रदाताओं हेतु क्षमता निर्माण की योजना के अंतर्गत अवमुक्त राशि	12.00	12.00
6. आईएचएम एण्ड सीटी की स्थापना के लिए सहायता की योजना के अन्तर्गत अवमुक्त राशि	341.91	341.91
कुल:	671.97	670.61

क्र.सं. परियोजनाओं का नाम	स्वीकृत राशि	अवमुक्त राशि
2004-05		
1. असम में पूर्वोत्तर यात्रा परिपथ का विकास	437.75	350.00
2. गुवाहाटी में पर्यटक आगमन-सह स्वागत केन्द्र	384.00	284.00
3. 11 से 17 फरवरी, 2005 तक काजीरंगा राष्ट्रीय पार्क और काजीरंगा के तीसरे हाथी उत्सव का आयोजन	15.00	12.00
4. सेवा प्रदाताओं हेतु क्षमता निर्माण की योजनाओं के अंतर्गत अवमुक्त राशि	15.00	15.00
5. आईएचएम एण्ड सीटी की स्थापना के लिए सहायता की योजना के अंतर्गत अवमुक्त राशि	शून्य	शून्य
कुल:	851.75	661.00
2005-06		
1. असम में पूर्वोत्तर परिपथ का विकास	280.00	224.00
2. कापोपठार (असम) में यात्री निवास का निर्माण	30.00	05.76
3. असम के काजीरंगा में साहसिक पर्यटन का विकास का प्रस्ताव	44.95	35.90
4. कोकराझार, असम में प्रस्तावित इको-टूरिज्म विकास परियोजना	460.00	368.00
5. मानस-गुवाहाटी-काजीरंगा का परिपथ विकास	781.00	624.80
6. असम पर्यटन हेतु आईटी परियोजना	47.80	43.00
7. रंगोली बीहू उत्सव मनाना	10.00	8.00
8. देहिंग-पटकई उत्सव मनाना	5.00	4.00
9. धुबरी-गोलपाड़ा-गुवाहाटी-सिलचर-करीमगंज पर्यटन परिपथ का एकीकृत विकास	432.28	345.82
10. 11 से 14 फरवरी, 06 तक काजीरंगा उत्सव मनाना	5.00	4.00
11. चाय पर्यटन उत्सव, 2005 मनाना	5.00	5.00

क्र.सं. परियोजनाओं का नाम	स्वीकृत राशि	अवमुक्त राशि
12. सेवा प्रदाताओं हेतु क्षमता निर्माण की योजना के अंतर्गत अवमुक्त राशि	21.50	21.00
13. आईएचएम एण्ड सीटी की स्थापना के लिए सहायता की योजना के अंतर्गत अवमुक्त राशि	359.00	359.00
कुल:	2481.53	2048.78

Promotion of tourism in Assam

†*81. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes formulated by Government for development and promotion of tourism in Assam;

(b) the details of amount allocated, released and spent by the Central Government for implementation of proposals regarding tourism in the State during the last three years, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) (a) and (b)
A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Ministry of Tourism sanctions specific projects for Assam under the following schemes:

1. Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations and Circuits;
2. Rural Tourism Infrastructure Development
3. Fairs and festivals
4. Assistance for establishment of Institutes of Hotel Management and Catering Technology.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Under the overall parameters of these schemes, emphasis has been given to the following programmes in Assam:

1. Tea Tourism and Plantation Holidays;
2. Wildlife and Adventure Holidays
3. Nature and Culture Tourism
4. River and Cruise Tourism
5. Pilgrimage Tourism

The objective has been to develop Assam as a unique model of sustainable Tourism.

(b) A list of projects sanctioned during the last 3 years is given in Statement-I

Statement I

List of projects sanctioned for the Government of Assam during the last 3 years

		(Rs. in lakhs)	
Sl. No.	Name of the Projects	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
2003-04			
1.	Development around Kamakhya Temple at Guwahati	151.27	151.27
2.	Elephant Festival 2004, Assam	04.19	03.75
3.	Integrated Tourist complex at Agartoli Ranger Kaziranga, Assam	158.00	158.00
4.	Rangoli Utsav	4.60	3.68
5.	Amount released under the scheme of Capacity Building for Service Provider	12.00	12.00
6.	Amount released under the scheme of Assistance for establishment of IHM & CT	341.91	341.90
TOTAL:		671.97	670.61

Sl. No.	Name of the Projects	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
2004-05			
1.	Development of NE Travel Circuit in Assam	437.75	350.00
2.	Tourist Arrival-cum-Reception Centre, Guwahati	384.00	284.00
3.	Celebration of Kaziranga National Park and 3rd elephant festival of Kaziranga—11th to 17th February, 2005	15.00	12.00
4.	Amount released under the scheme of Capacity Building for Service Provider	15.00	15.00
5.	Amount released under the scheme of Assistance for establishment of IHM & CT	Nil	Nil
TOTAL:		851.75	661.00

2005-06

1.	Development of NE Circuit in Assam	280.00	224.00
2.	Construction of Yatri Niwas at Kapopathar (Assam)	30.00	05.76
3.	Proposal for Development of Adventure Tourism in Kaziranga, Assam	44.95	35.90
4.	Proposed Eco-Tourism Development Project at Kokrajhar, Assam	460.00	368.00
5.	Circuit Development of Manas-Guwahati-Kaziranga	781.00	624.80
6.	IT Project for Assam Tourism	47.80	43.00
7.	Celebration of Rangoli Bihu Festival	10.00	8.00
8.	Celebration of Dehing-Patkai Festival	5.00	4.00
9.	Integrated Development of Dhubri-Goalpara-Guwahati-Silchar-Karimganj Tourism Circuit	432.28	345.82
10.	Kaziranga Festival 11th to 14 Feb.06	5.00	4.00
11.	Celebration of the Tea Tourism Festival, 2005	5.00	5.00

Sl. No.	Name of the Projects	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
12.	Amount released under the scheme of Capacity Building for Service Provider	21.50	21.50
13.	Amount released under the scheme of Assistance for establishment of IHM & CT	359.00	359.00
TOTAL:		2481.53	2048.78

SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Sir, the hon. Minister has given a detailed reply to my question regarding the development of tourism in Assam. The objective, as she has mentioned, has been to develop Assam as a unique model of sustainable tourism, which I appreciate.

Sir, there is a lot of scope for development of tourism in Assam. The hon. Minister has mentioned about the money sanctioned for the Kaziranga Park and also for the Kamakhya Temple at Guwahti where a lot of Indian and foreign tourists and devotees come every year. Sir, I think that the money sanctioned for the Kaziranga Park, the Manas Park and also for the Kamakhya Temple is not sufficient, so far as development of tourism in Assam is concerned. May I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any further scheme for development of infrastructure at Kaziranga and Manas Parks as also for development of the Kamakhya Temple?

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, under various schemes, money is allocated to different States for development of sustainable and other tourism. Kaziranga Park is a world Heritage Site. It is commemorating its anniversary. If the hon. Member looks through the years of the Tenth Five year Plan, he would find that several projects connected with Kaziranga Park and Kamakhya Temple have been given allocations under different schemes. The total is quite a bit. He would appreciate that the Ministry of Tourism at the Centre, under "Destination Development" and "Circuit", gives an amount of five to eight crores of rupees per project. It is now also, as a matter of encouragement, for the State to undertake further programmes and put forward further proposals for other avenues of tourism which can be developed on this. We, on our part, have given substantial amounts of money for both, development of the Kaziranga Park and the Manas Park, as also the Kamakhya Temple.

SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Sir, my second supplementary is about the Heritage Sites in Assam, particularly about the Majuli River, which is one of the largest rivers in the world. We expected it to be on the World Heritage map of tourism. But, till now, it has not been done.

Sir, Assam was ruled by the Ahom kings for more than 600 years. So, in the district of Sibsagar there are a lot of old Heritage Sites from where the Ahom Kings ruled Assam. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the development of Majuli Islands, which is on one of the world's largest river, and where 0.16 million people lived in Sibsagar district...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be brief.

SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Is there any scheme for development of Heritage Sites in Assam?

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, it is true that there was a proposal—which is still there—to put before the committee of UNESCO regarding declaration of the Majuli Islands as a World Heritage Site. At the last meeting the members of the Indian delegation, comprising the ASI and representatives of the Government of Assam, went to Lithuania but there were still some points which were to be attended to. Those points have been brought to the notice of the Government of Assam. I myself have been in touch with the Chief Minister so that we can attend to those points regarding legislation on certain points which are put forward by the UNESCO, and I am confident that next time, when we take the same proposal back to the Committee of the UNESCO which declares world heritage sites we should be able to get a measure of success.

SHRI URKHAO GWARABRAHMA: Sir, Assam is a State where various tribal people live in. They have their own language and culture. The tribal culture is also very rich. You have given importance to Rangoli Bihu celebration as part of tourism development in Assam. It is good because Rangoli Bihu is the main festival of Assam. But, along with Rangoli Bihu, the tribal culture should also be given importance. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any steps would be taken by the Ministry of Tourism to develop the tribal culture of Assam to make it a tourist destination.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, every year, the Union Ministry of Tourism allocates around Rs. 30 lakhs for observing and celebrating fairs and festivals. That is the way we have been using to encourage local customs

and traditions. From last year, we also started a North-East Cultural Festival, which was inaugurated by the hon. Prime Minister. This was the first time that such a festival was held. The success of that festival in Delhi encouraged us to declare that every year there will be a North-east Cultural Festival held in different parts of the country to familiarise the rest of the country with your rich cultural traditions, and also help to build and reinforce cultural traditions in different parts. But, basically, such traditions have to be upheld, developed and encouraged by State Governments.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, in view of the insurgency in that part of the country, this kind of tourism activity will definitely help, and I compliment the hon. Minister for taking special interest in this.

Sir, at serial number 9 of 2005-06 Budget, a sum of Rs. 4-32 crores has been allocated, but the actual disbursement is Rs. 3.45 crores; I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any monitoring is being done to see how this money is being spent. Similarly, for celebration of Tea Tourism Festival, an amount of Rs. 5 lakhs has been given. The amount is not important here. The important thing is whether this festival is really taking place in a proper way. That is one thing. I want to know as to what you are doing for the current year, because these details are for the last year which has already gone. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what you are going to do this year.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, I quite agree with the hon. Member that even though they may be small sums of money from Rs. 5 crores to Rs. 8 crores, when they are sanctioned for destination development or circuit development or Rs. 30 lakhs for fairs and festivals, we do monitor this at a regular interval. These priorities are fixed with the State Government officials. But, out officials from the Centre go; we have regular surveys done on the projects sanctioned by the Ministry. Sir, I would like to inform the House that soon after taking over as Minister, I held a three-day meeting in Guwahati of all the eight North-eastern States, just to review all the projects sanctioned during the Ninth Five Year Plan, the Tenth Five Year Plan and took an update on that. Sometimes, obstacles come in the way, like land not being available immediately. So, the project gets a little delayed. We have, therefore, as a result of our monitoring, decided that we will not sanction any large amount of money till the State Government makes available the land. So, Sir, for this year, I have the details. Sometimes, the States, especially from the North-east, take a longer time to make their proposals because the infrastructure is not available. We have, in this

year's Budget, sanctioned another help of Rs. 10 lakhs, even to help the States of the North-east to prepare their proposals for

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is enough... (*Interruptions*)....Next Question No. 82.

Upgradation of Biju Patnaik Airport, Bhubaneswar

*82. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to upgrade Biju Patnaik airport (Bhubaneswar) in Orissa to the international standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time-frame within which the above project would be initiated and completed; and

(d) whether during this upgradations scheme a sizeable number of temporary workers working now shall be made permanent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Bhubaneswar airport has been identified as one of the 35 non-metro airports for development of international standards. Various development works like construction of additional parking stands with associated taxiway, new integrated terminal complex and new technical block cum control tower have been planned with expected year of completion by 2010.

(d) No, Sir.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : धन्यवाद सभापति महोदय। उड़ीसा के साथ हर दृष्टि से भेदभाव हो रहा है। मंत्री महोदय ने अपने उत्तर में माना है कि 35 नॉन मेट्रो में भुवनेश्वर को डेवलेप करेंगे। लेकिन 2010 तक कुछ करेंगे और करेंगे तो क्या करेंगे, टैक्सी स्टैंड का डेवलेपमेंट करेंगे। करेंगे, तो क्या करेंगे पार्किंग स्पेस का डेवलेपमेंट करेंगे। मंत्री जी इतने नौजवान हैं, मंत्री जी इतने तेज हैं,